

## Parkinson's Disease

The patient must meet at least one of the following criteria (1 **or** 2):

**1.** Severely impaired breathing capacity with all of the following findings:

- ◆ Dyspnea at rest
- ◆ Vital capacity less than 30%
- ◆ The requirement of supplemental oxygen at rest
- ◆ The patient declines artificial ventilation

*OR*

**2.** Rapid disease progression and either **a** or **b** below:

- ◆ Progression from independent ambulation to wheelchair or bed-bound status
- ◆ Progression from normal to barely intelligible or unintelligible speech
- ◆ Progression from normal to pureed diet
- ◆ Progression from independence in most or all Activities of Daily Living (ADL) to needing major assistance by caretaker in all ADLs
- ◆ Progression of Dementia (often Lewy-Body type), now FAST score 7A (See Appendix 3)

*AND*

**a.** Severe nutritional impairment demonstrated by all of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:

- ◆ Oral intake of nutrients and fluids insufficient to sustain life
- ◆ Continuing weight loss
- ◆ Dehydration or hypovolemia
- ◆ Absence of artificial feeding

*OR*

**b.** Life-threatening complications demonstrated by one or more of the following in the preceding twelve (12) months:

- ◆ Recurrent aspiration pneumonia (with or without tube feedings)
- ◆ Upper urinary tract infection (e.g. Pyelonephritis)
- ◆ Sepsis
- ◆ Recurrent fever after antibiotic therapy
- ◆ Stage 3 or 4 decubitus ulcer(s)

**In the absence of one or more of these findings, rapid decline or comorbidities may also support eligibility for hospice care.**